

Hermitage Parish Council Update

- Councillor Ian Hunter resigned from the parish council at the September meeting due to increased family responsibilities preventing him attending meetings. HPC is very sorry to see Ian leave and thanks him for his years of service.

Of course this leaves a vacancy and applications are invited from anyone resident in the village for six months or more who would like to take this opportunity to serve the community. If this is you, please send an email to the parish clerk with a paragraph or two on why you would like this position, any experience you may have had of similar posts, but this is not a requirement, and any skills or abilities you have that you think may be relevant. But the most important thing is a strong desire to work for the benefit of Hermitage residents.

The closing date is November 1st with the co-option decision being made at the November meeting. All applications will be circulated in strict confidence to members of the council, within GDPR guidelines. The successful applicant will be invited to attend the December council meeting.

- Hardly a month goes by without the council having planning applications to consider and respond to. The decision is made at WBC but if you are interested in what is being built in Hermitage you will find details on the agendas and minutes of the meetings, all posted on notice boards and the web site www.hermitage.org.uk.
- HPC and Hampstead Norreys Council have been involved in the most successful project for a number of years with the completion of Eling Way. It will be maintained by West Berkshire Council which is responsible for the whole corridor though it has noted that HPC will continue to care for the stretch it owns and is in discussions with volunteers about caring for the rest of the route on behalf of WBC.
- If you have read the latest news letter from the district councillors (can be found on the web site at hermitage.org.uk) you may have noticed that one of our two councillors is leaving. Councillor H Cole is relocating from Chieveley to Wales before the end of the year. It is understood at the moment that she will continue in her role as councillor and a member of the WBC western area planning committee.
- A provisional date has been set for lighting the Christmas tree outside The Fox pub – Friday December 3rd. Confirmation and details will be in the November magazine but please pencil the date in to your diary with a view to joining in the carol singing and eating a mince pie or two. If you would like to get involved or help in any way please contact the parish clerk.
- Houses on Forest Edge that back on to the exclusion zone have been asked to notify the parish clerk of any dead trees close to the fence as soon as possible. It is hoped to get all necessary trees removed shortly and it would be most efficient to do them all at the same time. And winter storms can exacerbate the problem so the council would like to prevent damage occurring. Fly tipping has also been noticed – garden clippings and rubble – and all residents are asked not to tip anything at Furze Hill, into the exclusion zone or anywhere else. Furze Hill is a designated wild life area and tipping waste, including grass cuttings, changes the soil preventing wild flowers from growing and encouraging brambles instead.
- As this is written, the survey about choosing the replacement bus shelter is still ongoing but the result will be in the November issue of Pathfinder along with what will happen next.

- The October parish council meeting is on Thursday October 21st. All meetings begin at 7.30pm with agendas, minutes and information about the council being posted on notice boards throughout the village and www.hermitage.org.uk. All members of the public are welcome but the council would appreciate the parish clerk being notified in advance.
- Hermitage Parish Council can be contacted through the clerk, Nicky Pierce by emailing hermitagepc@outlook.com.